

THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
C H U R C H
OF
S C O T L A N D,

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, THE 19th DAY OF MAY 1796.

COLLECTED AND EXTRACTED FROM THE RECORDS BY THE CLERK THEREOF.



EDINBURGH:
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CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

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THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
CHURCH of SCOTLAND,

Begun at EDINBURGH, the 19th day of MAY 1796,
and concluded the 30th day of the said Month and
Year.

I.

The KING's Commission to DAVID Earl
of LEVEN produced, and ordered to
be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 19. 1796.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National
CHURCH being convened and constituted,
there was produced to them, by the Right
Honourable DAVID EARL of LEVEN, the
KING's Commission, sealed with the seal ap-
pointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in
Scotland, in place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making
and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner
and

and Representative in this Assembly; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Assembly; —the tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS, Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniae, Franciae, et Hiberniae Rex, Fidei Defensor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentes literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem Nos considerantes, quod Generalis Ecclesiae Scotiae Conventus in decimum nonum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; Nosque abundè cupidi, et necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiae, ut idem ecclesiae generalis conventus die statuto debitè observetur, atque rebus magni momenti Nos aliò vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; Nosque abundè satisfacti de sufficientia et fidelitate fidelissimi et prædilectissimi Nostri consanguinei Davidis Comitis de Leven et Melville, quod ad summum munus Nostri supremi Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum ritè exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, Nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, tenoreque præsentium, nominare, constituere, et ordinare, memoratum fidelissimum et prædilectissimum Nostrum consanguineum Davidem Comitem de Leven et Melville, supremum Nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiae Scotiae conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram Nostram Personam et auctoritatem regalem repræsentandi, nec non presentiam Nostram supplendi, et locum Nostrum in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario Nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiae conventu peragendi, tam plenè adeoque liberè in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si Nos ipsi personaliter præsentes facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula quæ dictus David Comes de Leven et Melville, in hac Nostra Commissione proseguenda legitimè fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, Nos firmiter approbamus et ratificamus. Insuper omnibus et singulis dicti conventus et ecclesiae pastoribus et presbyteris, cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniae Scotiam vocatam, subditis Nostreis, cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum Davidem Comitem de Leven et Melville, tanquam supremum Nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoscant et audient, strictè mandamus et præcipimus: Atque hanc Nostram Commissionem à dicto decimo nono die Maii, proximi incipere, et deinceps durante subsequente

sequente sessione dicti generalis conventus in vigore continuare, declaramus, vel usque dum à Nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, presentibus sigillum Nostrum per Unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotiâ vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam Nostram apud St James's, vigesimo quinto mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo et nonagesimo sexto, Regniue Nostri anno trigesimo sexto.

Per signaturam manu S. D. N. Regis superscriptam.

II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the
General Assembly, presented to them
by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well.—Impressed with a just sense of the important benefits, which through the blessing of Divine Providence have resulted, during so long a course of years, from the meeting of your Venerable Body, it is with peculiar satisfaction that We again impart to you the sanction of Our Royal Authority, and assure you of Our determination to maintain the Church of Scotland, as by law established, in the full and free enjoyment of all its rights and privileges. We have again thought fit to constitute and appoint Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin, DAVID Earl of LEVEN and MELVILLE, to represent Our Royal Person in this Assembly, being well satisfied with his upright and faithful conduct in the execution of that important trust, and not doubting but he must continue to be acceptable to You, from the affection to the Church of Scotland, and the zeal for the interests of Religion, which he has manifested on so many former occasions. The subjects of your deliberation are awful and important, and embrace the dearest interest of Our Subjects. The proofs

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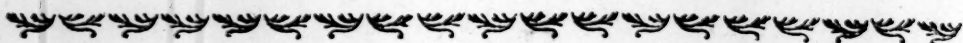
you

you have uniformly given of your wisdom and discretion, leave Us no room to doubt of your zealous and faithful discharge of the trusts reposed in you. Recommending you to the Divine Protection, We bid you heartily farewell.—Given at Our Court at St James's, the 10th day of May 1796, in the thirty-sixth year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

P O R T L A N D.

Addressed thus:—*To the Right Reverend the Moderator, Ministers and Elders, of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*



III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the KING's most gracious Letter.

May it please your Majesty,

THE gracious letter with which Your Majesty has been pleased to honour this meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with profound respect and gratitude.

The good opinion which Your Majesty condescends to express of the benefits which through Divine Providence have resulted from this Supreme Ecclesiastical Court, the renewal of the sanction of Your Royal Authority, and the assurances of Your Majesty's determination to maintain our Church in the full and free enjoyment of all its rights and privileges, cannot fail to animate us in the discharge of our duty, and to confirm our loyalty and affection to Your Majesty's Person and Government.

We return our humble thanks for the confidence which Your Majesty is pleased to repose in us, by entrusting to us Your Royal Bounty, for the propagation of Christian Knowledge in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland; and we shall carefully endeavour to distribute it in such a manner as may tend most effectually to accomplish this generous and pious design.

We

We regard it as a pledge of Your Majesty's favour, that Your Royal Person is again represented in our Assembly by the Earl of Leven and Melville,—a Nobleman who is at all times most acceptable to us, not only from the great affection to the Church of Scotland, and zeal for the interests of Religion, which he has manifested on so many former occasions, but also from his very exemplary conduct in private life.

We shall be studious to cherish among the people with whom we are connected, a spirit of dutiful and affectionate allegiance to a Sovereign, who, deeply impressed with a sense of the awful and important nature of Religion, shews an attention so paternal to the dearest interests of his subjects; and it will afford us the utmost satisfaction, if, by a zealous and faithful discharge of the great trusts reposed in us, we shall be so happy as to confirm the favourable sentiments, with regard to our Church, which Your Majesty has been pleased so graciously to express.

That Almighty God, the Father of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, may protect Your Person and prosper Your Government; that He may bless the QUEEN, the PRINCE and the PRINCESS OF WALES, and all the Royal Family; and that, after a long and happy reign upon earth, You may rise to a glorious immortality in heaven,—are the earnest Prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient,

And most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, }
May 21. 1796. }

WM. GREENFIELD, *Moderator.*



IV.

ADDRESS on His Majesty's late Preservation.

May it please Your Majesty,

WE, Your Majesty's most loyal, dutiful, and affectionate subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the General Assembly of this National Church, beg leave to take this earliest opportunity which our annual meeting affords us, of presenting our most sincere and heartfelt congratulations, upon Your Majesty's late providential deliverance from the attack made by wicked and daring assassins; an attack the more peculiarly disgraceful to the times in which we live, in having been made upon Your sacred Person, when in the discharge of one of the most important duties intrusted to Your Majesty by the constitution. Impressed as we have ever been with the strongest and most unalterable sentiments of respect and attachment to Your Majesty's Person and Government, we have seen with the deepest concern and astonishment the views of the seditious and disaffected, manifestly displayed in an act of such daring atrocity.

We have, however, observed, with the highest satisfaction, that the several branches of the Legislature, the constitutional guardians of the public interest, have concurred in the adoption of such laws, as we trust will, under the influence of Divine Providence, have the effect of ensuring the safety of Your Majesty's Person, repressing the machinations of seditious and disaffected men, and of securing the true liberty, happiness and tranquillity, of these kingdoms.

That the manifold advantages which we and our forefathers have long enjoyed under that form of Government, administered by Your Majesty and the other Princes of Your illustrious House, may be transmitted
entire

entire to the latest posterity, and that Your Majesty may long continue to reign over a free, loyal, and affectionate people, are the most earnest prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most dutiful,

Most faithful, and most obedient Subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this National
Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

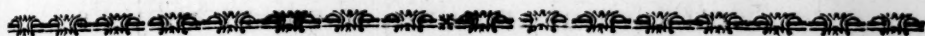
Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, }
May 21. 1796. }

WM. GREENFIELD, *Moderator.*



V.

ADDRESS to His Majesty on the Birth
of a PRINCESS, the Daughter of the
PRINCE and PRINCESS of WALES.

May it please Your Majesty,

WE Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met together in the General Assembly, take this first opportunity of congratulating Your Majesty on the late increase of the Royal Family, by the birth of a Princess, the daughter of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales.

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As

As our sentiments of duty and affection to Your Majesty, lead us to take part in whatever may add to Your domestic felicity, we cannot fail to rejoice in an event which gives farther security to the permanent continuance of the Crown of these realms, in Your Majesty's illustrious Family, under whose mild and equitable Government, our happy constitution has been so much strengthened and confirmed, and our national prosperity so greatly increased.

That Almighty God may bless and long preserve Your Majesty, to reign over a happy and affectionate people: That he may bless your Royal Consort the QUEEN, their Royal Highnesses the PRINCE and PRINCESS of WALES, PRINCESS CAROLINE, and all the Royal Family, and that after reigning long with increasing felicity, You may at last be rewarded with that crown of glory that fadeth not away, through the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ, is the earnest prayer of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most dutiful,

Most faithful and most obedient Subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this National
Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, }
May 21. 1796. }

WM. GREENFIELD, *Moderator.*



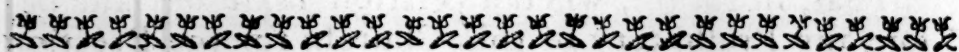
VI.

Regulations and Overture respecting
the Erection of Chapels of Ease.*Edinburgh, May 26. 1796. Sess. 7.*

THE General Assembly, judging it expedient, that no Chapel of Ease should be erected without the knowledge and approbation of the General Assembly, unanimously did, and hereby do ordain, That, in future, if any petition shall be laid before any Presbytery of this Church, for the erection of a Chapel of Ease, the said Presbytery shall strictly observe the following regulations :

“ That, in future, when a petition shall be laid before any Presbytery of this Church, for the Erection of a Chapel of Ease, it shall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting ; and at that meeting, unless it shall appear to the Presbytery, from the circumstances in which the petition is offered, that the Erection of the said Chapel of Ease is unnecessary and inexpedient, they shall cite the minister and Kirk-Session of the Parish, within which the Chapel is intended ; and shall summon, by edictal citation, the Heritors of the Parish, and if there is a Burgh in the Parish, the Magistrates of that Burgh, to attend the next Meeting of Presbytery, and to appear for their interest, in the subject of the Petition, if they shall see cause : — That such Presbytery, after having heard the parties, shall sufficiently ascertain the circumstances on which the Petition is founded ; — the facts stated as reasons for the necessity or expediency of the Chapel intended ; — the general plan of the Chapel itself ; — the estimate of the expence to be incurred in completing it ; — the scheme laid down for discharging the debts, which it may be necessary to contract ; — the plan on which it is proposed to dispose of the
“ collections

“ collections to be made at the Chapel;—the names
 “ and designations of the persons in whom the pro-
 “ perty is to be vested;—the mode proposed for the
 “ election of the Minister;—the stipend to be pro-
 “ vided to him;—and the security offered for the re-
 “ gular payment of the stipend:—That such Presby-
 “ tery shall thereafter report the whole above-men-
 “ tioned circumstances of the case, from their minutes,
 “ to the next Meeting of the General Assembly; and
 “ shall not pronounce any final judgment on the petition,
 “ till they shall have received the special directions of
 “ the Assembly thereon; and that it shall be competent
 “ for the petitioners, and for all parties having inte-
 “ rest, to be heard on the subject at the bar of the As-
 “ sembly.”—And at the same time the Assembly
 transmit to the Presbyteries of this Church the said
 Regulations, as an OVERTURE on which they are re-
 quired to send up their opinions to the next Assembly.
 And the General Assembly ordain that separate copies
 of this Order and Overture be printed, and transmitted
 to the different Presbyteries.



VII.

COMMISSION of the General Assembly,
 to certain Ministers and Ruling Elders,
 for discussing affairs referred to them.

Edinburgh, May 28. 1796. Sess. 9.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nomi-
 nate, commission and appoint, the Reverend Dr
 WILLIAM GREENFIELD, one of the Ministers of the
 City, and Professor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres in the
 University of Edinburgh, their Moderator: And,—
 From the *Presbytery of Dornock*, Mr Walter Ross at
 Clyne,

Clyne, Mr Alexander Sage at Kildonan, *Ministers*; Captain Robert Bruce Æneas Macleod of Cadboll, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Tongue, Mr John Thomson at Diurness, Mr William Mackenzie at Tongue, *Ministers*; Mr William Maclean, merchant in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Caithness, Mr William Sutherland at Wick, Mr Patrick Nicolson at Thurso, *Ministers*; Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster, Baronet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of Wick, Mr James Horne, writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery* of Kirkwall, Mr William Anderson at Evie, Mr James Watson at South-Ronaldsay, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Youngson, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of Kirkwall, Malcolm Laing, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of Cairstone, Mr James Bremner at Walls, Mr John Malcolm at Firth, *Ministers*; Mr Richard Richardson, merchant in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of North Isles, Mr John Anderson at Stronsay and Eday, Mr Walter Trail at Lady-Parish, *Ministers*; John Grieve, Esq; one of the Commissioners of Excise, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Zetland, Mr James Sands at Tingwall, Mr David Thomson at Walls, *Ministers*; Professor Andrew Dalzel, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Edinburgh, Dr John Erskine, Edinburgh, Dr David Johnston at North Leith, Mr James Robertson at Ratho, Mr William Moodie, Edinburgh, Mr Robert Dickson, South Leith, Mr Archibald Bonnar at Cramond, *Ministers*; Lord Meadowbank, Bailie George Spankie, William Simpson, Esq; cashier to the Royal Bank, *Ruling Elders*:—From the City of Edinburgh, The Right Honourable Sir James Stirling, Baronet, Lord Provost of the City, Mr Thomas Hay, Convener of the Trades:—From the *Presbytery* of Linlithgow, Mr Hugh Meiklejohn at Abercorn, Mr Robert Rennie at Boness, Mr John Sommers at Mid-Calder, Mr John Bell at Carriden, *Ministers*; Mr James Taylor, shipmaster, John Meek of Campfield, Esq; *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of Linlithgow, Robert Blair, Esq; of Aventown, His Majesty's Solicitor General for Scotland:—From the *Burgh* of Queensferry, James Hopkirk, Esq; merchant in Glasgow:—From the *Presbytery* of Biggar, Mr Bernard Halden at Glenholm, Mr John Ritchie at Dunfyre, Mr Robert Anderson at Symington, *Ministers*; John Dickson of Culter, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery*

bytery of Peebles, Mr William Welsh at Drummelzier, Mr William Marshall at Manner, *Ministers*; James Montgomery, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Dalkeith*, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr Thomas Maccourty at Pennycuick, Mr Leslie Moodie at Newton, *Ministers*; The Right Honourable Lord Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Haddington*, Mr Hugh Cunnyningham at Tranent, Mr George Hamilton at Gladimuir, Mr George Murray at North Berwick, *Ministers*; The Most Honourable George Marquis of Tweeddale, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Haddington*, Mr William Cunningham, merchant in Haddington:—From the *Burgh of North Berwick*, Sir Hew Hamilton Dalrymple, Bart.:—From the *Presbytery of Dunbar*, Dr Patrick Carfrae at Dunbar, Mr James Williamson at Whitekirk, *Ministers*; John Anderson, Esq; of Windygoul, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Dunse*, Mr Selby Ord at Longformacus, Mr Alexander Girvan at Langton, *Ministers*; Mathew Sandilands, Esq; clerk to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Chirnside*, Mr James Landells at Coldingham, Mr Robert Scott at Coldstream, *Ministers*; George Buchan, Esq; of Kello, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Kelfo*, Mr Andrew Bell at Roxburgh, Mr William Blackie at Yetholm, *Ministers*; Sir James Pringle of Stitchell, Baronet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Jedburgh*, Mr William Scott at Southdean, Mr John Hunter at Oxnam, Mr James Rutherford at Hounam, *Ministers*; Captain John Rutherford of Mosburnford, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Lauder*, Mr Laurence Johnston at Earlston, Mr James Baird at Legerwood, *Ministers*; Colonel John Pringle of Georgefield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Lauder*, the Right Honourable James Earl of Lauderdale:—From the *Presbytery of Selkirk*, Mr William Campbell at Lilliesleaf, Mr Charles Paton at Ettrick, *Ministers*; Mark Pringle, Esq; of Clifton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Selkirk*, Alexander Cunningham, Esq; younger of Hyndhope:—From the *Presbytery of Annan*, Mr James Yorftoun at Hoddam, Mr Thomas Smith at Cumbertrees, *Ministers*; Joseph Norris of Newfield, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Annan*, Charles Hope, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery of Langholm*, Mr John Russell at Canoby, Mr William Brown at Eskdalemuir, *Ministers*;

Ministers; Mr James Robertson, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lochmaben*, Mr Thomas Henderson at Drysdale, Mr William Sibbald at Johnston, Mr William Wightman at Dalton, *Ministers*; William Tait, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Lochmaben*, Mr William Johnston, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Penpont*, Mr William Keyden at Penpont, Mr James Keyden at Keir, *Ministers*; Mr William Carson, merchant in Closeburn, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dumfries*, Mr Alexander Scott at Dumfries, Mr William Macmorine at Carlaverock, Mr Theodore Edgar Keyden at Terreagles, *Ministers*; Thomas Crichton, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkcudbright*, Dr John Scott at Twinholm, Dr Robert Mutter at Kirkcudbright, Mr John Johnston at Crossmichael, *Ministers*; James Gordon, younger of Culvenan, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Kirkcudbright*, Horatius Cannan, Esq; of Barley:—From the *Burgh* of *New Galloway*, Mr Robert Heron, Preacher of the Gospel:—From the *Burgh* of *Wigton*, Mr John Jaffray, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Stranraer*, Mr Anthony Stewart at Newluce, Mr William Rose at Kirkcolum, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Adair, Esq; of Genoch, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Stranraer*, Thomas Smith, Esq; one of the principal clerks to the bills:—From the *Presbytery* of *Ayr*, Dr William McQuhae at St Quivox, Mr John Shepherd at Muirkirk, Mr Robert Duncan at Dundonald, Mr James Thomson at Girvan, Mr William Ritchie at Tarbolton, *Ministers*; Lord Glenlee, Thomas Kennedy, Esq; of Denure, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Ayr*, George Fergusson, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Irvine*, Mr Alexander Miller at Kilmaurs, Mr Robert Urquhart at Kilbirnie, Mr Robert Macvey at Beith, *Ministers*; the Honourable Mr Patrick Boyle of Shewalton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Irvine*, David Boyle, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Paisley*, Mr Walter Young at Erskine, Mr John Monteith junior, at Neilston, Mr George Maclatchie at Mearns, Mr Stevenson Macgill at Eastwood, *Ministers*; Hugh Jameson, Esq; eldest Magistrate of Paisley, Robert Davidson, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Hamilton*, Dr James Meek at Cambuslang, Dr Alexander Hutchison, at Hamilton, Mr Patrick Macbeth at Glasgow, *Ministers*; Professor George Jardine, Glasgow, *Ruling*

Ruling Elder :—From the *Presbytery* of *Lanark*, Mr James Fergusson at Pittenain, Mr Joseph Henderson at Wiston, *Ministers* ; James Miller, Esq; of Hallhill, Advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Glasgow*, Dr William Taylor at Glasgow, Mr William Dun at Kirkintulloch, Mr David Dow at Cathcart, Mr John Pollock at Govan, *Ministers* ; Sir John Stirling of Glorat, Bart. John Corbet, Esq; of Tolcross, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *City* of *Glasgow*, John Dunlop, Esq; of Rosebank, Lord Provost of the City :—From the *University* of *Glasgow*, Dr Hugh Macleod, Professor of Ecclesiastical History :—From the *Burgh* of *Rutberglen*, James Davidson, Esq; writer to the Signet :—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunbarton*, Mr James Graham at Killern, Dr John Stuart at Lufs, Mr John Gillespie at Arrochar, *Ministers* ;—The Right Honourable Ilay Campbell, Lord President of the Court of Session, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh* of *Dunbarton*, Archibald Campbell, Esq; younger of Succoth :—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunoon*, Mr Charles Stewart at Strachur, Mr Dugald Macdugall at Lochgoilhead, *Ministers* ; John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh* of *Rothsay*, William Macleod-Bannatyne, Esq; of Kames :—From the *Burgh* of *Campbelton*, William Campbell, Esq; of Fairfield :—From the *Burgh* of *Inverary*, Humphry Trafford Campbell, Esq; younger of Ashnish :—From the *Presbytery* of *Lorn*, Mr Patrick Campbell, at Kilninver, Dr Joseph Macintyre at Glenorchie, *Ministers* ; John Campbell, Esq; of Lochend, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Mull*, Mr Alexander Campbell at Ardnamurchan, Mr Archibald Maccoll at Tirie, *Ministers* ; Allan Macdougall of Hayfield, Esq; *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunkeld*, Mr William Innerarity at Caputh, Mr Alexander Niven at Dunkeld, Mr Colin Macvean at Kenmore, Mr Hugh Macdougall at Killin, *Ministers* ; Thomas Elder, Esq; of Forneth, David Stewart, Esq; merchant in Leith, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Pertb*, Mr John Inglis at Tibbermuir, Mr James Beatson at Dumbarnie, Mr William Aitkin at Scone, Mr David Dow junior at Errol, *Ministers* ; Archibald Campbell, Esq; younger of Clathick, Mr Alexander Beatson, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Stirling*, Mr Robert Moodie at Clackmannan, Mr Robert Knox at Larbert and Dunipace, *Ministers* ; Burnet Bruce, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Auchterarder*, Mr John Baird at Dunning, Mr William

William Graham at Fossaway, Mr Andrew Duncan at Auchterarder, *Ministers*; Peter Murray, Esq; younger of Auchtertyre, Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunblane*, Mr Robert Stirling at Dunblane, Mr Patrick Murray at Kilmadock, *Ministers*; Professor William Richardson, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunfermline*, Mr Archibald Smith at Kinross, Mr Allan Maclean at Dunfermline, Mr Andrew Robertson at Inverkeithing, *Ministers*; Sir Charles Preston of Valayfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Culross*, George Abercromby, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkcaldy*, Mr George Willis at Leslie, Mr John Thomson at Markinch, Mr George Gib at Wemyss, *Ministers*; Alexander Park of Lochore, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Dysart*, Mr Alexander Whyte, shipmaster:—From the *Presbytery* of *Cupar*, Mr Robert Bogie at Logie, Mr Robert Macculloch at Dairfie, Dr Thomas Stewart at Newburgh, Mr Lawrence Adamson at Cupar, *Ministers*; George Greenlaw, Esq; of Hilton, Mr David Simpson in Dunbog, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Cupar*, Major John Melville of Cairnie:—From the *Presbytery* of *St Andrew's*, Dr John Adamson at St Andrew's, Mr Thomas Kettle at Leuchars, Mr Andrew Bell at Crail, Mr David Williamson at Ferry-Port-on-craig, *Ministers*; Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Monypenny of Pitmilley, Professor Henry David Hill, St Andrew's, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *St Andrew's*, The Honourable Henry Erskine, Advocate:—From the *University* of *St Andrew's*, Dr George Hill, principal of St Mary's College:—From the *Burgh* of *Crail*, Mr Thomas Weir, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Meigle*, Mr James Ogilvie at Eassie, Mr Alexander Thomson at Lentrathan, Mr Colin Symers at Alyth, *Ministers*; Sir William Ramsay of Banff, Baronet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Forfar*, Mr David Ferney at Kinnettles, Mr James Mitchell at Aberlemno, *Ministers*; Mr John Moncreiff, apothecary in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Forfar*, Robert Graham, Esq; of Finty:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dundee*, Mr Walter Tait at Lundie and Fowlis, Mr Patrick Macvicar at Dundee, Mr James Scott at Auchterhouse, *Ministers*; George Paterfon, Esq; of Castlehuntly, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Dundee*, James L'Amy, Esq; Advocate, younger of Dunkenny:—From the *Presbytery* of *Aberbrothock*, Mr John Gowans at Lunan, Mr William Milligan at Kirk-

den, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Milne, merchant, Canon-
gate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Brechin,
Mr Robert Hannah at Strickathrow, Mr James Mit-
chell at Montrose, Mr Andrew Fergusson at Maryton,
Ministers; James Wauchope, Esq; younger of Edmon-
stone, Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of Bre-
chin, Adam Gillies, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presby-*
tery of Fordoun, Mr Alexander Thom at Glenbervie,
Mr James Leslie at Fordoun, Mr George Cook at Law-
rencekirk, *Ministers*; John Burnet, Esq; Advocate, *Ru-*
ling Elder:—From the *Presbytery* of Aberdeen, Dr George
Gordon at Aberdeen, Mr George Morison at Banchory
Devenick, Mr Alexander John Forsyth at Belhelvie,
Mr Alexander Simpson at Old Machar, *Ministers*; Wil-
liam Robertson, Esq; Advocate, Procurator for the
Church, John Gordon, Esq; of Craig, *Ruling Elders*:
—From the *Presbytery* of Kincardine O'Neal, Mr Robert
Farquharson at Logie Coldstone, Mr Alexander Mearns
at Cluny, Mr Alexander Robertson at Coul, *Ministers*;
William Macdonald, Esq; of Reneaton, *Ruling Elder*:—
From the *Presbytery* of Alford, Mr John Harper at Kil-
drummy, Dr George Minty at Kinnethmont, Mr John
Gordon at Cabrach, *Ministers*; James Gordon, Esq;
younger of Craig, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery*
of Ellon, Mr Alexander Cock at Cruden, Mr George Pi-
rie at Slains, *Ministers*:—From the *Presbytery* of Garioch,
Mr Thomas Tait at Meldrum, Mr Alexander Duff at
Monymusk, Mr William Cock at Culsalmond, *Ministers*;
William Gordon, Esq; younger of Rothney, *Ruling El-*
der:—From the *Presbytery* of Deer, Mr John Lundie at
Loanmay, Mr William Cumin at Rathen, Mr William
Frazer at Tyrie, *Ministers*; Mr John Taylor, writer to
the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Turreff,
Mr John Falconer at Fyvie, Mr Robert Gordon at Drum-
blade, *Ministers*; Mr Archibald Miln, writer to the Sig-
net, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Fordyce, Mr
Robert Grant at Cullen, Mr Alexander Gray at Ordi-
quhill, *Ministers*; Mr George Andrew, writer in Edin-
burgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of Banff, George
Cranston of Dewar, Esq;—From the *Presbytery* of Strath-
bogie, Mr James Miln at Rhyne, Mr Francis Forbes at
Grange, *Ministers*; Mr Baron Gordon, *Ruling Elder*:
—From the *Presbytery* of Aberlour, Mr George Cruik-
shank at Rothies, Mr William Spence at Inveraven, *Mi-*
nisters; The Honourable Arthur Duff, *Ruling Elder*:—
From the *Presbytery* of Abernethy, Mr Lewis Grant at
Cromdale,

Cromdale, Mr John Anderson at Kingusie, *Ministers*; Dr Gregory Grant, physician in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Elgin, Mr James Gillan at Speymouth, Mr William Macbaine at Alves, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Gordon, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of Elgin, Mr Francis Nicol, preacher of the Gospel:—From the *Presbytery* of Forres, Mr William Stephen at Rafford, Mr John Hoyes at Kinloss, *Ministers*; George Cuming of Relugas, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Nairn, Mr John Morrison at Nairn, Mr John Paterfon at Auldearn, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Grant, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Inverness, Mr Alexander Frazer at Inverness, Mr Hugh Mackay at Moy, *Ministers*; Simon Frazer of Faraline, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Chanonry, Mr Roderick Mackenzie at Kilmuir Wester, Mr Robert Smith at Cromarty, *Ministers*; Convener John Lindsay of Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Tain, Mr John Mathison at Kilmuir Easter, Mr Thomas Urquhart at Rofskeen, *Ministers*; Charles Rofs, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Dingwall, Mr John Frazer at Kilmorack, Mr Charles Calder at Urquhart, *Ministers*; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Abertarph, Mr Thomas Rofs at Kilmanivaig, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, *Ministers*:—From the *Presbytery* of Sky, Mr Martin Macpherson at Slate, Mr Malcolm Macleod at Snizort, *Ministers*; The Right Honourable Alexander Lord Macdonald, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Uist, Dr John Macleod at Harris, Mr Edmund Macqueen at Barra, *Ministers*; Hector Macdonald Buchanan, Esq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Lochcarron, Mr John Macrae at Glenhiell, Mr Alexander Downie at Lochalsh, *Ministers*; Bailie Daniel Miller Canongate, *Ruling Elder*: And the General Assembly added thereto Dr Henry Grieve, one of the Ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator: TO BE COMMISSIONERS of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener, when and where they shall

shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully empowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year One thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here inserted; and that they inquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books and pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission, to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise, to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorized by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline

pline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them, as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies One thousand seven hundred and twelve, and One thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Assembly One thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Assembly held in the year One thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission; and such of the members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlement of vacant churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly,

as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been some time the practice, but shall allow the same to lie over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th act of the Assembly One thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.



VIII.

COMMISSION to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that end.

Edinburgh, May 30. Sess. 9.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr WILLIAM GREENFIELD, one of the Ministers of the City, and Professor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres in the University of Edinburgh, their Moderator, all the ministers who are members of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr Walter Ross, Mr William Mackenzie, Mr William Sutherland Mr James Watson, Mr James Bremner, Mr John Anderson at Stronsay, Mr James Sands, Mr Hugh Meiklejohn, Mr Robert Anderson, Mr William Marshall, Dr Alexander Carlyle, Mr George Murray, Mr Selby Ord, Mr Robert Scott, Mr William Blackie, Mr William Scott,

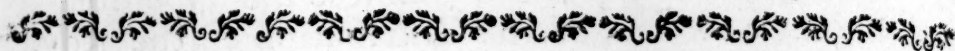
Scott, Mr William Campbell, Mr John Russell, Mr Thomas Henderson, Mr William Keyden, Mr Alexander Scott, Mr John Johnston, Mr William Rose, Dr William Macquae, Mr John Shepherd, Mr Alexander Miller, Mr Walter Young, Dr James Meek, Mr James Fergusson, Dr William Taylor, Dr John Stuart, Mr Dugald Macdougall, Mr Patrick Campbell, Mr Alexander Campbell, Mr William Innerarity, Mr Alexander Niven, Mr John Inglis, Mr James Beatson, Mr Robert Moodie, Mr John Baird, Mr Patrick Murray, Mr Allan Maclean, Mr George Willis, Mr Robert Bogie, Dr John Adamson, Dr George Hill, Mr James Ogilvie, Mr David Ferney, Mr Patrick Macvicar, Mr William Milligan, Mr Robert Hannah, Mr George Cook, Dr George Gordon, Mr Alexander Mearns, Mr John Harper, Mr Alexander Cock, Mr Thomas Tait, Mr John Lundie, Mr John Falconer, Mr Robert Grant, Mr James Miln, Mr George Cruickshank, Mr Lewis Grant, Mr William Macbain, Mr John Hoyes, Mr John Morrison, Mr Hugh Mackay, Mr Roderick Mackenzie, Mr John Mathieson, Mr John Frazer, Mr Thomas Ross, Mr Martin Macpherson, Dr John Macleod, Mr John Macrae, *Ministers*; Mr William Maclean, Sir John Sinclair, Baronet, Mr James Horne, Mr Alexander Youngson, Malcolm Laing, Esq; Mr Richard Richardson, Commissioner Grieve, Professor Dalzel, Lord Meadowbank, Baillie George Spankie, William Simpson, Esq; the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Convener Thomas Hay, John Meek, Esq; Mr Solicitor General, John Dickson, Esq; James Montgomery, Esq; the Right Honourable the Lord Advocate, Matthew Sandilands, Esq; the Earl of Lauderdale, Mark Pringle, Esq; Mr Alexander Cunningham, Mr Joseph Norris, Charles Hope, Esq; Mr James Robertson, William Tait, Esq; Mr William Johnston, Mr Horatius Cannan, Mr Robert Heron, Mr John Jeffrey, Mr Thomas Adair, Mr Thomas Smith, Lord Glenlee, George Fergusson, Esq; the Honourable Patrick Boyle, David Boyle, Esq; Robert Davidson, Esq; Provost John Dunlop, Dr Hugh Macleod, Mr James Davidson, the Right Honourable the Lord President, Archibald Campbell, Esq; *junior*, John Lamont, Esq; William Macleod-Bannatyne, Esq; William Campbell of Fairfield, Esq; Humphry Trafford Campbell, Esq; Mr Allan Macdougall, Thomas Elder, Esq; Mr Alexander Beatson, George Abercromby, Esq; Major John Melville, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Monypenny, Mr Thomas Weir, Sir William Ramsay, Baronet,

Baronet, Mr John Moncreiff, Robert Graham, Esq; James L'Amy, Esq; Mr Thomas Milne, James Wauchope, Esq; Adam Gillies, Esq; John Burnet, Esq; the Procurator, Mr William Macdonald, James Gordon, Esq; younger of Craig, Mr William Gordon, Mr John Taylor, Mr Archibald Miln, Mr George Andrew, George Cranston, Esq; Baron Gordon, the Honourable Arthur Duff, Dr Gregory Grant, Mr Thomas Gordon, Mr George Cumin, Mr Alexander Grant, Convener John Lindsay, Charles Ross, Esq; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, Lord Macdonald, Mr Hector Macdonald Buchanan, Bailie Daniel Miller, *Ruling Elders*; TO BE A COMMITTEE of this Assembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty for these ends, according to, and in terms of his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to his Majesty's design, expressed in His warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation; prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty

loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee to have a particular regard, in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Assemblies; and to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their registers the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several Missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said Missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning Missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the Missionaries, except upon receipts from the Missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, that they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts; and that every Catechist, who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners, or gentlemen of the district shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the Cashier, a declaration, that he has received the particular sum specified; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall, in like manner, bear, that the Catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the Cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed

to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the Missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned, who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named, as Members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be Ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of Missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be Ministers; and the said Committee are appointed to have their first general meeting at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of the first of the stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly; their second meeting (which is for fixing the annual scheme) upon the second Thursday of July, with power to those Members who shall then be present, to adjourn; and their other two general meetings the first lawful days after the stated meetings of the Commission of the General Assembly, in November and March, within the Assembly ayle at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty,

Bounty, to pay out the same, as he shall be directed and ordered by the foresaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of His Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be Ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time, the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just account of the matter against the next meeting. And it is farther appointed, That after the yearly scheme of Missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their answer to these letters, at farthest, with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a sub-committee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said Committee, in making up the scheme of Missionaries, &c. do not exceed the sum in the grant.



IX.

Edinburgh, May 28. 1796. Sess. 9.

THE Report of the Committee appointed to class returns to Overtures was called for, given in, and read.—The Assembly ordered the Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers to be re-transmitted; with a renewal of the Recommendation to such Presbyteries as have sent no Returns, to send them without further delay.

New Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers.

Edinburgh, May 25. 1792. Sess. 8.

THE General Assembly having taken under their serious consideration, the great danger to which the interests of Religion and of this Church may be exposed, by licensing any to preach the Gospel, who are not duly qualified for that important trust, do hereby enact and ordain, That in all time coming the following regulations shall be strictly observed:

I. It is hereby enacted, That no Student shall be entered upon the Roll of any Professor of Divinity, unless he shall produce to the said Professor a certificate from the Minister of the parish in which he has his usual residence; or in his absence, or during a vacancy in said parish, from some neighbouring Minister, bearing, that his character is suitable to his views; together with a diploma of Master of Arts, or certificates from the several Professors of Philosophy, under whom he hath studied, from which it may be clearly ascertained that, in some University or Universities, he hath gone through a full course of Philosophy, in some winter-sessions of College

College preceding that in which the certificates are produced.

II. The General Assembly do likewise hereby ordain, That all Students who have been inrolled by Professors of Divinity, in the manner prescribed by this act, shall continue to prosecute the study of Divinity for the term of six Sessions: Provided always, That if any Student hath given regular attendance in the Divinity Hall during three Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in four Sessions; and that if he hath given regular attendance in the Hall during two Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in five Sessions. And the Assembly do further ordain, That in each of these cases, Students shall be inrolled by the Professors during the several Sessions of their respective Courses, and deliver in the Divinity Hall, in the manner herein afterwards provided, an Exegesis in Latin, on some controverted Head in Divinity, a Homily in English, an Exercise and Addition, a Lecture on some large portion of Scripture, and a popular Sermon, together with such other exercises as the Professors shall think proper to prescribe. And the Assembly farther enact and declare, That a Student is entitled to apply to the Professor for his certificates, that he may be proposed for trials, and that the preliminary steps may be taken by the Presbytery during the currency of the last Session of his Course, as above described; with this limitation, that if the said last Session is to be claimed as a Session of regular attendance, he shall, toward the conclusion thereof, obtain a new certificate of his attendance during its currency, and produce the same to the Presbytery or Synod.

III. Professors of Divinity are required to attend, as much as circumstances may permit, to the conduct of such Students as are under their care, and, as far as they find it practicable, to insist that every Student shall deliver his first discourse some time during his second Session, at the latest, and the remainder of his Discourses at such periods as may enable him to deliver the whole of them before the end of January of the last Session of his Course.

IV. When a Student is proposed to any Presbytery, in order to be taken upon trials, the Presbytery shall be
H alone,

alone, and the motion for that purpose shall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting. In the mean time, the Presbytery shall appoint the Member by whom the Student has been proposed, to lay before the said meeting the certificate or certificates in favour of the Student, that are specified in the third paragraph of the fifth section of this act; to desire him to attend the same; and to inform him, that, previously to the meeting, he ought, as far as circumstances may permit, to wait on such Ministers of the Presbytery as have not formerly had an opportunity of conversing with him in private.

V. When the time appointed for considering the motion is arrived, the Presbytery shall strictly observe the following regulations.

1st, The Presbytery shall be alone, while they are employed in discussing the several preliminaries respecting Students who are proposed for trials.

2^d, They shall require satisfying evidence, that every Student who is proposed for that purpose, has completed the twenty-first year of his age.

3^d, No Student shall be admitted to trials, unless he produces to the Presbytery, a certificate or certificates from the Professor or Professors of Divinity, under whose tuition he hath studied, bearing, that he hath prosecuted his studies, and delivered his Discourses, in the manner prescribed by this act; and that his conduct, as far as consists with the knowledge of the said Professor, or Professors, has been in every respect suitable to his views in life. And the General Assembly do likewise hereby enact, That the Presbytery shall record at full length the said certificate, or certificates, in their minutes: And it is hereby enacted and declared, That the Student having lodged such certificate or certificates, shall be entitled to obtain extracts of the same, if demanded.

4th, No Presbytery shall receive any Student upon trials, unless they are satisfied that he is of good report; sound in his principles; pious, sober, grave, and prudent, in his behaviour; of a peaceable disposition; and well affected to the happy establishment in this kingdom, both in Church and State. And, that the Presbytery may proceed with all due caution, in a matter of such peculiar importance, they shall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unless his residence, during the
year

year preceding, has been chiefly within their bounds, or he shall produce sufficient testimonials from the Presbytery, in whose bounds his residence has chiefly been during that term, bearing, that his character is such as is described in the immediately preceding sentence of this paragraph, and recommending him, in these respects, to the Presbytery before whom the proposal is made, as a proper person to be entered upon trials.

5th, The Presbytery shall not agree to the motion in favour of the Student, unless they are satisfied, that he has made a competent degree of proficiency in those several branches of knowledge which are necessary to enable him to be an useful Preacher of the Gospel. And the General Assembly ordain, that the Presbytery, in order to procure full information in this respect, shall examine the Student, strictly, and privately, on his knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, and of Philosophy and Theology.

6th, If after these preliminary steps have been taken, the Presbytery shall be of opinion, that the Student is duly qualified in these several particulars, they shall record this opinion in their minutes, and order their clerk to write letters to the several Presbyteries within the bounds of the Provincial Synod, two kalendar months at least before the meeting of the same, informing them of the Presbytery's intention to take the Student upon Public Trials, and bearing, that the certificate, or certificates in his favour, which are required by this act, have been regularly laid before them. But it is hereby provided, That within the bounds of such Synods as meet only once a-year, a Student may be entitled to have these circular letters written half a-year sooner than would be otherwise competent.

VI. The General Assembly do likewise hereby enact and declare, That, at the request of the Student, it shall be competent to any Presbytery to transfer the receiving of the Public Trials, or any part thereof, certifying to the Presbytery to which the transference is to be made, that the various preliminary steps have been taken according to the directions of this act; and that such parts of the public and private trials as have been already gone through, have been received with approbation.

VII. If

VII. If a Student hath studied, either in whole or in part, in Protestant Universities which are not within the bounds of this Church, he shall, when he is proposed to any Presbytery for trials, be required to produce satisfying testimonials from the Professors of Divinity in said Universities; and the time which these Professors shall certify to have been employed by him in studying Divinity under their tuition, shall be computed in the same manner as if he had prosecuted his studies in any of the Universities within the bounds of this Church. But it is hereby provided, That no Student, in such circumstances, shall be admitted even to those private trials which are appointed to be taken before the writing of the circular letters, sooner than six kalendar months after his arrival in Scotland.

VIII. The General Assembly ordain, That if a Presbytery propose to take a Student upon public trials, and have, with that view, written the circular letters, as is herein required, public intimation thereof shall be made at some diet of the next meeting of the Provincial Synod, which shall not be the last diet thereof: And the Presbytery clerk is hereby required to transmit to the Synod clerk an extract of the certificate, or certificates laid before the Presbytery in favour of the Student, in order that the same may be produced at this diet of the Synod. And it is likewise hereby ordained, That at some subsequent diet of the Synod, particular inquiry shall be made, whether any of the Members of the Court has any objection to offer against the Student being entered upon Public Trials: And that the Synod then, taking into consideration the extract produced, and the whole of the case, shall judge of the expediency of allowing the Presbytery to admit the Student on trials: Or if in any case the Presbytery clerk shall fail to transmit the extracts of the certificates above mentioned, the Student may produce to the Synod, by himself or by any Member of the Court, the extract of the same, which by this act he is entitled to obtain.

IX. If the Synod shall allow the Student to be taken upon Public Trials, the Presbytery shall proceed therein with all convenient speed; and the Assembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the Student, and in the order herein mentioned: 1st, Catechetic trials on Divinity, Chronology, and Church History; 2^d, A trial on the

the Hebrew and Greek languages; 3d, An Exegetis in Latin on some controverted Head in Divinity; 4th, A Homily in English; 5th, An Exercise and Addition; 6th, A Lecture on some large portion of Scripture; 7th, A popular Sermon; it being understood, that if the Presbytery see cause, they may examine the Student upon the subject of these several Discourses.

X. The Student having gone through the several trials, which are mentioned in the immediately preceding section of this act, the Presbytery are ordained to proceed in the following order.

1st, They shall, deliberately and seriously, take a conjunct view of the whole trials; and if they shall be of opinion, that the Student is not properly qualified to perform the duties incumbent upon a Preacher of the Gospel, they shall by no means grant him a License in his present circumstances.

2d, If, upon this review of the trials, the Presbytery are fully satisfied therewith, they shall record this opinion in their minutes.

3d, The Presbytery shall then propose to the Student the questions that are appointed to be put to all who pass Trials by act 10th, Assembly 1711, and require him to subscribe the *Formula* which is prescribed by the said act. And the General Assembly strictly prohibit all Presbyteries from licensing any Student to preach the Gospel, who shall not give explicit and satisfying answers to these questions, and subscribe the said *Formula*.

4th, The Presbytery shall order the act of Assembly 1759, against Simoniackal practices, to be read to the Student in their presence.

Lastly, The Presbytery shall appoint their Moderator to license the Student to preach the Gospel, and order their clerk to furnish him with an extract of his license.

XI. For the better observance of this act, the General Assembly ordain, 1st, That it shall be printed among their other printed acts; 2d, That it shall be printed by itself, in some convenient form; 3d, That a copy of this separate edition shall be transmitted to each Professor of Divinity in the Universities of Scotland; and that the said Professors shall read the same in their respective Halls, once at least during every Session, and at such times as they have reason to expect the attendance

of the greatest number of Students for that Session; and, *lastly*, That a copy of the same edition shall likewise be transmitted to the clerks of each Synod, and Presbytery, within the bounds of this Church, and that the said clerks shall keep the same along with their minutes, and bring it up to each meeting of their respective Courts, for the use of the Members.



X.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

Edinburgh, 30th May 1796. Sess. ult.

THE next GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 18th day of May 1797.

Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

ANDREW DALZEL, *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

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THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF KING CHARLES THE FIRST

IN THE YEAR OF HIS MAJESTY'S REIGN

THE FIRST OF JANUARY

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ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH of SCOTLAND, held at Edinburgh, in the Year 1796, which are not printed at full length.

Thursday, May 19. 1796. Sess. I.

AFTER Sermon by the Reverend Dr JAMES MEEK, Minister at Cambuslang, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders convened in the Assembly-house in the usual manner: And after Prayer by the said Dr James Meek, the Reverend Dr WILLIAM GREENFIELD, one of the Ministers of the City, and Professor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres in the University of Edinburgh, being unanimously chosen Moderator, he, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The KING's Commission to the Right Honourable DAVID Earl of LEVEN and MELVILLE, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person, read, and ordered to be recorded. See printed Acts, No. I.

The King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, read, and ordered to be recorded. and No. II.

His Majesty's Royal Warrant for L. 1000 was also delivered to the Assembly, and ordered to be recorded.

The Commissioners Speech at opening the Assembly, and the Moderator's Speech in return thereto.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

A congratulatory Address to his Majesty on the birth of a Princess, the Daughter of their Royal Highnesses the PRINCE and PRINCESS of WALES:

Also an Address to his Majesty, on his providential preservation from the daring and atrocious attempt lately made against his Royal Person, agreed to; and a Committee appointed to prepare both Addresses.

A Committee named for revising the Commissions to the Members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof, naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, and receiving Lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries in order to their being recorded.

A Committee for Overtures named,

A Committee for Bills, References and Appeals, named.

Adjournment.

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Friday,

ABRIDGMENT. 1796.

Friday, May 20. 1796. Sess. 2.

Sederunt.

New Commissions produced.

A diet spent in Prayer.

Act VII. of the Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of the Assembly, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the Commissioner.

The Committee for revising Commissions appointed to meet.

The Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Saturday, May 21. 1796. Sess. 3.

Sederunt.

New Commissions produced.

The draught of the Answer to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly: Also the draught of an Address to his Majesty on his late providential preservation: And the draught of an Address to his Majesty on the birth of a Princess, the Daughter of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, being severally brought in and approved, his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The Report of the Committee for overtures was given in and read.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Lochcarron, "That the Elder is stated as having signed the Formula enjoined by the 11th Act of Assembly 1794, instead of 1694." In respect the Elder has frequently been attested in former Assemblies, as having signed the proper Formula, and as the informality appeared merely to be the mistake of the Clerk in copying a single figure, viz. 7 instead of 6, the Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Culrofs, "That the attestation of the Kirk-session wants the clause, certifying, that the Commissioner has signed the Formula prescribed by the 11th Act of the Assembly 1694, and the Presbytery, in their attestation, mention this exception to the Commissioner, but attest him as qualified in every other respect." The Assembly agreed, that this Commission shall be sustained, when the Commissioner shall have subscribed the above mentioned Formula at the bar of the Assembly; and Mr George Abercromby, Advocate, the Commissioner, did subscribe the formula prescribed by the 11th Act of Assembly 1694, in presence of the Assembly, and took his seat accordingly.

Overture from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, anent printing of the Bible, read, and ordered to lie on the table till Monday.

The

ABRIDGMENT, 1796.

The Report of the Committee of last Assembly on Chapels of Ease was read, and ordered to lie on the table till Wednesday, and the Report in the meantime was ordered to be printed.

The roll of causes transmitted by the Committee for Bills was called for, produced, and read.

The Assembly agreed to take up the petition of Mr Simpson on Monday, and the cause of Mr Gillanders on Tuesday.

A Committee was named to revise the actings and proceedings of the Commission of last General Assembly. And

A Committee named to revise the Actings and Proceedings of the Committee appointed by last Assembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

A Committee was named to revise the accounts of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, and other public accounts, consider the state of the Church's public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

The Committee for Overtures was appointed to meet this evening, and empowered to receive from the several Members any instructions given to them by the respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures thereon to the Assembly; and to receive and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and Superstition, and prepare Overtures for preventing and suppressing thereof.

The Committee for Bills was appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Monday, May 23. 1796. Sess. 4.

Sederunt.

Report of the Committee for Overtures given in, and read.

Agreed to consider the Overture from the Synod of Perth and Stirling on Thursday next, and the Overture from the Synod of Fife immediately after.

Report of the Committee for Bills given in, and read.

A special Committee appointed to consider the petition of Mr Macdougall, Minister of Lochgoilhead, and to report on Friday.

Synod Books called for.

The Overture from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr was read; and, in respect that the important object mentioned in the Overture has already been obtained by the printing and publication of a new edition of the Bible, the Assembly dismissed the same.

The Assembly proceeded to consider the reference from the Synod of Aberdeen, respecting ministers of Chapels of Ease being elected Members of Church Judicatories: After reasoning, and the vote being put, the Assembly declared, That it appears to this Assembly, that Ministers of Chapels of Ease, being in the habitual exercise of the functions of the ministerial

ABRIDGMENT, 1796.

sterial office, are thereby disqualified from sitting as lay-elders in the judicatories of this Church.
The Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.
Adjournment.

Tuesday, May 24. 1796. Sess. 5.

Sederunt.

New Commissions produced.

Report of the Committee for Overtures given in, and read.

The Assembly agreed to consider the Instructions and Overture from the Synod of Moray on Thursday, along with the Overture on the same subject from the Synod of Fife.

Report of the Committee on the Orkney grievances given in and read, and ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow.

An Appeal at the instance of Mr John Gillanders, Minister of Fern, in the Presbytery of Brechin, from a sentence of the Synod of Angus and Mearns, of date 27th October 1795, heard. The Assembly reversed the sentences of the Presbytery of Brechin, and of the Synod of Angus and Mearns; disapproved of the manner in which the Presbytery have conducted their visitation in the parish of Fern; remitted this cause to the Presbytery of Brechin, and ordained the Presbytery, at their first ordinary meeting, to pronounce judgment on the accusation brought against Mr Gillanders by Martha Lighton; and thereafter, to summon Alexander Webster, George Deuchar, and John Murison, who, before the Presbytery on the 28th of August, and 4th September 1793, undertook to prove by witnesses certain charges against Mr Gillanders, to come forward, in terms of the form of process, with such of these charges as they shall think proper, in the form of a libel, on or before the 1st of October next, on which libel the Presbytery are to judge; enjoining the Presbytery, notwithstanding any appeals that may be taken from their sentences, to pronounce a judgment upon the relevancy of the libel, if any shall be offered, before the meeting of the Synod of Angus and Mearns, in April next.
Adjournment.

Wednesday, May 25. 1796. Sess. 6.

Sederunt.

A new Commission produced.

Committees appointed to meet.

The Report of the Committee on the Orkney grievances was given in, read and approved of, with this addition, That if the grievances in the Parish of Evie and Rendal be redressed without a process before the Court of Session, the Assembly instruct the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to commence and carry on a process according to their discretion, in either of the other two cases selected by the Synod of Orkney:

ABRIDGMENT, 1796.

Orkney: And farther, a Committee was appointed to prepare a distinct statement of the grievances complained of in the Synod of Orkney, to be Reported to the Assembly on Saturday; and if then approved of, to be transmitted by the Moderator, in name of the General Assembly, to the Patrons and other heritors of the Parishes in that country.

The Assembly proceeded to consider the Report of the Committee on Chapels of Ease: And first, to consider the Resolutions contained in said Report; and next, the most competent method of enacting the same; and with some amendments, the whole of the Report was unanimously adopted, except the concluding clause, *viz.* "That such Presbytery shall thereafter Report the whole circumstances of the case from their minutes to the next meeting of the General Assembly; and shall not pronounce any final judgment on the petition, till they shall have received the special directions of the Assembly thereon; and that it shall be competent for the petitioners, and for all parties having interest, to be heard on the subject at the bar of the Assembly." And a difference of opinion having arisen respecting this clause, the Assembly agreed to the following state of a vote, *Report* or *Judge*; it being understood, that if it carries *Report*, the concluding clause shall also be adopted; and if it carries *Judge*, that in place of the concluding clause, there shall be substituted the following words: "That such Presbyteries shall thereafter consider the whole circumstances of the case, and pronounce judgment thereon." And the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *Report*. Therefore the concluding clause was also adopted. Against which decision a member dissented; and those who might adhere, were allowed to enter their dissents to-morrow. The Assembly delayed the consideration of the form of enactment till to-morrow.

Upon a motion, the Committee for Overtures was appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Thursday, May 26. 1796. Sess. 7.

Sederunt.

Several Members adhered to the dissent of yesterday, respecting Chapels of Ease.

Report of the Committee for Overtures given in, and read.

The Assembly agreed to consider on Saturday, the Overture from the Presbytery of Kincardine-Oneal, anent the method of carrying on Processes against Clergymen.

The public accounts produced, and ordered to lie on the table.

The Assembly, in pursuance of their resolution of yesterday, proceeded to consider the form that may be most competent for enacting the Resolutions then adopted, respecting Chapels of Ease. After long reasoning, the Assembly judging it expedient,

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pedient,

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pedient, that no Chapel of Ease should be erected without the knowledge and approbation of the General Assembly, un-animously ordained, &c. (See Printed Acts, No. VI.)

The Assembly proceeded to consider the Overture from the Synod of Perth and Stirling, anent Professors being Ministers of Parishes where they cannot constantly reside. The Overture was unanimously dismissed, as unnecessary, on account of the existing laws in Church and State, on the subject of Residence.

The Overtures anent the diffusion of the Gospel, were delayed till to-morrow.

Upon a motion, the Committee of Bills was appointed to meet. Adjournment.

Friday, May 27. 1796. Sess. 8.

Sederunt.

A new Commission produced.

Report of the Committee of Bills given in, and read.

The Report of the Committee on the Petition for Mr Dugald Macdougall, Minister of Lochgoilhead, given in, and read. The Assembly unanimously approved of the Report; and, agreeable thereto, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to defend the process therein mentioned, in name of the Church, at the public expence.

The Report of the Trustees of the fund established by act of Parliament, for a provision to Ministers Widows, &c. containing an account of their proceedings since last General Assembly, and a state of the fund under their management, given in, and ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow: And, upon a motion, the thanks of the House were given from the chair to Sir Henry Moncreiff-Wellwood, for his fidelity, attention and prudence in the management of the fund.

The Assembly proceeded to consider the Overtures from the Synods of Fife and Moray, relative to the diffusion of the Gospel. After reasoning, a motion was made and seconded, "That the General Assembly are of opinion, that the object proposed in the Overtures is of the highest importance: "But, in respect the facts and circumstances, which are necessary for the General Assembly to come to any resolution upon this subject at present, are not sufficiently explained and instructed; therefore, the Assembly appoint a Committee to take the subject of them into consideration, and report the result of their enquiries to the next General Assembly:" And, after farther reasoning, another motion was made and seconded, "That the General Assembly having considered the Overtures, and judging it highly inexpedient, at this time, to appoint a Collection over Scotland, by the authority of the General Assembly; and not considering the circumstances of the times as favourable for the General Assembly's adopting any particular measure, in relation to the
" object

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“ object of the Overtures, dismiss the same: At the same
“ time, recommend to all the Members of the Church of Scot-
“ land, in their different stations, to take every competent
“ method of promoting, within the sphere of their influence,
“ the knowledge of the Gospel, a just sense of the inestimable
“ benefits which it conveys to all who embrace it; and the
“ practice of these virtues, by which Christians make their
“ light to shine before others: And, while they offer their
“ fervent prayers to Almighty God for the fulfilment of his
“ Promise, in giving his Son the Heathen for an inheritance;
“ they resolve, that they will embrace with zeal and with
“ thankfulness, any favourable opportunity of contributing, by
“ their exertions, to the propagation of the Gospel of Christ,
“ which Divine Providence may hereafter open.” The As-
sembly agreed to the following state of a vote, *Appoint or*
Dismiss; and the Roll being called, and votes marked, it car-
ried *Dismiss*: Therefore, the Assembly *dismissed* the Over-
tures, in terms of, and with the recommendation contained in,
the second motion accordingly.

The Committee on new applications appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Saturday, May 28. 1796. Sess. 9.

Sederunt.

A new Commission produced.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertson, Advo-
cate, Procurator for the Church, and exonerating and discharg-
ing him, and his cautioners, of the sum of L. 486 : 0 : 6 $\frac{4}{12}$
Sterling disbursed by him, and appointing, that he give cre-
dit in his next account for the sum of L. 13 : 19 : 6 $\frac{8}{12}$ Ster-
ling, being the balance due by him.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Murray, Agent
for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him of the
sum of L. 89 : 6 : 8 Sterling, disbursed by him, and appoint-
ing that he take credit in his next account for the sum of
L. 14 : 6 : 8 Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of Mr James Dickson, Printer for
the Church, and ordering payment of the sum of L. 10 Ster-
ling, being the amount thereof.

Act approving of the account of stationary articles furnished to
the clerks by Mr Elphinston Balfour, and ordering payment
of the sum of L. 10 : 14 : 10 Sterling, being the amount there-
of.

The Report of the visitors of the Commission-record called for;
the Commissioners' conduct approved of; thanks given to the
Moderator of the Commission, and their book ordered to be
attested.

The Report of the Committee for naming Members of the
Commission of this Assembly, and preparing instructions to
them, given in, and approved. The Assembly added thereto,
See Printed Acts,
No. VII.

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Dr

ABRIDGMENT, 1796.

Dr Henry Grieve, one of the Ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator.

The Report of the visitors of the Royal Bounty record given in, and read; the conduct of the managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

See Printed Acts.
No. VIII.

A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a Commission and instructions to them.

The Synod Books of Merse and Teviotdale, and of Angus and Mearns ordered to be attested.

The Report of the Trustees of the fund established by act of Parliament for a provision to Ministers' Widows, &c. again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register kept for that purpose.

No. IX.

The Report of the committee appointed to class returns to Overtures was called for, given in, and read. The Assembly ordered the Overture respecting the licensing of Probationers to be re-transmitted; recommending to such Presbyteries as have sent no returns, to send up their opinions to next Assembly.

The Committee on the Enzie fund renewed with the former powers. The names of the Members of the Committee are: The Moderator, Dr Hardy, Dr Hunter, Mr William Simpson, Dr John Kemp, Sir Henry Moncreiff, Mr Moodie, *Ministers*; the Procurator, Mr Thomas Smith, writer, Mr George Andrew, writer, Mr Solicitor-General, Mr James Gordon younger of Craig, Mr William Gordon younger of Rothny, and Mr James Robertson, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elders*.

The Report of the Committee appointed to draw up a distinct state of the grievances within the Synod of Orkney, was given in, and read: The Assembly approved thereof, and authorised the Moderator to transmit copies of the said statement to the principal heritors of the different Parishes concerned, accompanied with a respectful Letter; and appointed him to Report to the next Assembly any answers which he may have received; and the General Assembly enjoin the Presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod of Orkney, to lay before next Assembly a state of the Churches and Parochial Schools within their bounds, that the next Assembly may take such steps, as to them in their wisdom, may seem best calculated for redressing the grievances which may then exist.

The Overture from the Presbytery of Kincardine-Onel delayed till Monday.

Committees appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Monday, May 30. 1796. *Sess. ult.*

Sederunt.

The Synod Book of Lothian and Tweeddale ordered to be attested.

The Report of the Committee on new applications given in, and read, and unanimously approved of.

The

ABRIDGMENT, 1796.

The Procurator authorised to pay to the Presbytery of Kelfo, L. 4:9:2 Sterling, as soon as the debts already on the funds of the Church are extinguished.

List of Probationers produced; their names read out, and ordered to be recorded.

The Report of the Committee of last Assembly, on the petition of the Ministers of Tongue, Duirness, and Edrachilles, given in, and read; which Report the Assembly approved of, and recommended the farther consideration of this affair to the same Committee, with the addition of Mr James Robertson, writer to the Signet, and Mr George Andrew, writer, to Report to next Assembly; Mr Finlayson Convener.

The Overture from the Presbytery of Kincardine-Onie, anent the method of carrying on processes against clergymen, was again called for, and read. The Assembly appointed a Committee to consider the subject of the said Overture, and to lay their Report before the Commission in November, that some Overture thereanent may be prepared and ripened for the next Assembly. Dr Grieve to be Convener of the Committee.

A Committee named to revise the minutes of the Assembly's proceedings at this and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of the Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

The Moderator's speech to the Assembly, and to his Grace the Commissioner.

The Lord High Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

Act appointing next diet of Assembly.

The Assembly concluded with Prayer, singing of Psalms, and pronouncing the Blessing.

See Printed Acts,
No. X.

